

THE REPORTER

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FY2015 District Cost-Share Dollars Available

The Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will receive \$24,375 for cost-share practices for fiscal year 2015, which begins July 1.

The funds are available for grazing management, sensitive areas, woodland erosion and sheet, rill and gully erosion. Additional funding may be available in the fall or winter based upon cost-share allocated.

In the fall, the district will complete a needs assessment to determine landowner interest in certain practices. Notify the SWCD with any projects you wish to complete in the next two years and beyond.

The district website: <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/stcharles/index.html> has additional cost-share information listing specific practices. The vendor input/ACH-EFT application is available as a fillable form from a link on the district website. Go to the landowner assistance tab, then to forms at the bottom of the page. The form serves to have cost-share money directly deposited into a landowner's bank account and provides tax information to generate a 1099 at tax time. The landowner authorization form is available at: <http://dnr.mo.gov/forms/780-2224-f.pdf>. The

landowner authorization form identifies the landowner(s) and allows designation of other individuals with authority to sign for cost-share. Designation of individuals with authority to sign for cost-share is entirely the decision of the owner. Blank forms are also available at the office and can be mailed to landowners and operators.

The SWCD would like to extend gratitude to the landowners, farmers and contractors who have worked with us through a dry fall, wet winter, and an increasingly wet spring/summer. Weather conditions have been a challenge for construction during cost-share fiscal year 2014.

NRCS & MU To Host Free Soil Health Expo

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the University of Missouri are hosting a free Soil Health Exposition August 13-14. The exposition will be at MU's Bradford Research and Extension Center, 4968 Rangeline Road, about six miles east of Columbia, Mo.

The two-day exposition will feature vendors, tours, demonstrations and presentations by farmers who have successfully incorporated cover crops into their operations.

The exposition will feature an **open admission, so participants may attend as few or as many of the sessions as they choose.** Events will be occurring from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. Topics will include: climate variability; understanding soil data; economics of cover crops; cover cropping and improved infiltration; effects of Glyphosate on soil biology; the latest soil health field equipment; field demonstrations; soils exhibits; and soil pits and properties. Equipment and seed dealers also will be present.

News & Notes

News From FSA Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs

Sign-Up Continues Until Jan. 30, 2015

Eligible producers can sign up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

FSA Dates to Remember

June 15-Nomination period begins for County Committee elections.

July 4-Independence Day Holiday. FSA offices are closed.

July 15-Final date to report 2013 ACRE farm production.

July 15-Final date to report Acreage

Ongoing-Sign up for livestock programs/tree losses.

MDC Seeks Public Input on Deer Management

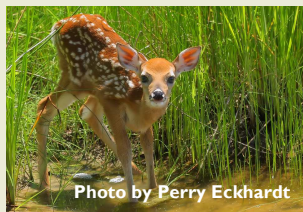


Photo by Perry Eckhardt

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is collecting public input on "what they want Missouri's deer

population to look like and what combination of hunting seasons, bag limits, and hunting methods they want the conservation department to use to achieve their goals," says Tom Draper, MDC Deputy Director.

For more information, and to provide comments, go online to mdc.mo.gov/DeerOpenHouses

Presence of Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed

The exotic, invasive, wood-boring insect, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), has been found in St. Charles County. According to Missouri Department of Conservation's Urban Forester, Perry Eckhardt, the insect has been verified in Ash trees near Stag Industrial Drive just north of Hwy N in western Lake St. Louis.

"All Ash trees within 15 miles of that location are considered affected," Eckhardt said.

He explained that the insect can affect all species of ash trees. Signs that a tree is undergoing stress include: sparse foliage; dying branches in the upper part of the tree; new sprouts on the roots, lower trunk or lower branches, and increased activity of woodpeckers. A sure sign that this stress is caused by EAB would be the detection of 1/8 diameter D-shaped holes in the bark; and three to five inch vertical splits that reveal S-shaped "trails" under the bark.

Adult female beetles lay their eggs on the bark; and when the eggs hatch, the larvae burrow under the bark and eat the living tissue. This kills the tree within two to five years. Adult beetles are metallic green and about 1/2 inch long.

The EAB quarantine is now statewide, and firewood may be legally moved anywhere within the state. If you are considering moving firewood outside Missouri, you should first contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture for restrictions that may apply.

Since EAB has been confirmed in this county, some recommendations apply:

Consider which of your ash trees are worth spending money to protect. A good guide is: [http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/pdf/NABB DecisionGuide.pdf](http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/pdf/NABB%20DecisionGuide.pdf)

Remove ash trees that are unhealthy, are in the wrong site (under a power line, for example), or are very young. Replace these with a better tree.

If using an insecticide, consider the following:

Trees with a trunk diameter larger than 15 inches should be treated by a professional arborist to provide adequate protection.

Trees of less than 15 inches diameter can be treated by the homeowner using a soil drench of Imidacloprid. It is a legal requirement that insecticide applications must follow label instructions.

The most effective type of insecticides need to be injected into trees by a professional arborist and repeated at 1-2 year intervals. Injection treatments are expensive and create wounds that risk further tree problems.

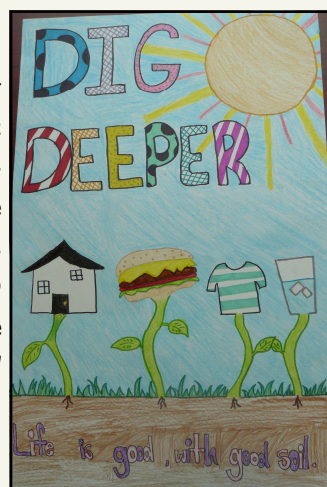


Poster Contest Grand Prize Winner



Paige Seydel

Paige Seydel, a sixth grader at All Saints Catholic School in St. Peters designed the Grand Prize poster for the St. Charles County annual NACD poster contest. The theme this year was *Dig Deeper! Mysteries in the Soil.*



Auboug is New Farm Outreach Worker



Reneesha Auboug has joined the staff of Lincoln University's Cooperative Extension program—the Innovative Small Farm Outreach Program (ISFOP), and her service area is St. Charles and Lincoln Counties. She replaces David Price who resigned in 2013.

As a Farm Outreach Worker (FOW), Auboug can provide information on ways to better manage resources, reduce expenses and increase income. A goal of the FOW is to help small farmers discover ways to increase their income and improve their quality of life.

Farmers eligible to participate in the ISFOP are those who live and work on their farm; provide the management and most of the labor on their farm, and who produce a farm income of less than \$50,000 annually.

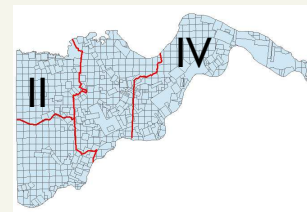
Auboug is a 1998 graduate of Lincoln University and has extensive experience in agriculture and farm business. She has worked for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a soil conservation aide; and she has lived and worked on a farm in the country of Mexico. She currently is a volunteer at an organic farm in Ferguson, Missouri.

If you would like some advice about the management of your farm, Auboug is ready to help. She can be reached at (314) 838-4088, or email her at aubogr@lincolnu.edu. She will have office hours in Troy at the MU Extension office on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SWCD Supervisor Nominees Sought

Two positions on the SWCD Board of Supervisors will be up for election during the Annual Meeting in November. Nominees for these positions are being accepted now through September 13, 2014.

If you are a farmer/landowner in area II or area IV, you might consider joining the SWCD Board to serve other farmers in the area by making decisions concerning the operation of the SWCD, and the approval of cost-share practices on farmland in your county.



Women in Ag Conference Planned

The Missouri Conference of the Women In Agriculture will be held in Hannibal, Missouri, **September 15-17, 2014**, with the theme: Celebrating 20 Years "River Style".

The \$70 registration fee covers the Monday night banquet, Tuesday tours and lunch. Registration forms and payment are payable by August 8 to the Shelby County SWCD-WIA, 210 East Main P.O. Box 158, Shelbyville, MO 63469.

For questions or concerns, call Beth Stiefel, Carol Hubbard, or Nena Myers at 573-633-2211, ext. 3.

Perkins attends Grazing Conference - Shares Notes

Charlie Perkins, District Technician, recently attended the 30th Annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference in Springfield, featuring Jim Gerrish of American GrazingLands Services: <http://americangrazinglands.com/index.html>

Below is some of the information Charlie brought back with him.

How to avoid animal concentration in pastures when animals are attracted to feed, water, and shade. Jim recommends moving feeders including mineral feeders within the pasture. Move water if possible, use longer hoses with portable tanks to minimize bare soil. Provide good heavy use area protection such as rock or concrete when the watering facility is stationary. Provide a defined area for shade by excluding woodlands with fence.

Taller grass is not wasted!!! It regrows faster and there is more production all season long. During the drought of 2012, taller cool season grass prevented evaporation by insulating the soil. Leaving adequate grass residual, allowing recovery periods, varying the season of use, and inter-seeding legumes will add production.

If a water source is greater than 1/4 mile, 2/3 of the manure is deposited relatively near the shade and water vs. water sources less than 1/4 mile. The shorter the distance to water, the more uniform the manure distribution. Uniform manure distribution equals uniform fertilizer distribution. Direct access to ponds and creeks damage streambanks and denudes vegetation. Fence, gravity flow watering facilities from ponds or springs, pressurized water systems, and limited access points to creeks and ponds can greatly improve water quality.

Sarah Kenyan is an Agronomy Specialist for the University of Missouri Extension headquartered in the Texas County Office. Her presentation was titled "Keys to Successful Forage Establishment".

Broadcast legumes during the winter as long as some freeze/thaw activity will improve seed soil contact. Roll, drag, cultipack, or trample legume seed into the soil to improve successful establishment. Broadcasting cool season grasses is not recommended unless seed contact can be improved using tillage. No-till drills are more readily available than ever through soil and water conservation districts around the state.

Sarah does not recommend spring planting of cool season grasses due to weed competition in the spring and summer dryness. She is a proponent of fall seeding cool season grasses. The question was asked: What to plant during the spring to utilize the field. She recommends planting annual forages prior to planting permanent grass to utilize the field during the summer. Many broadleaf herbicides can damage young grass seedlings. Always look at herbicide labels and consider the carryover potential.

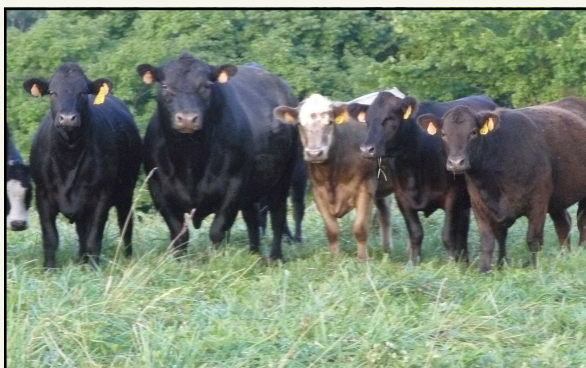
Pay attention to planting depths, do not plant too deep. Most forage grasses and legumes should not be planted deeper than 1/4 inch. Extension guide 4652, Seeding Rates, Dates and Depths for Common Missouri Forages details the information. It may take 12

months before the new stand is fully developed. A few short grazing periods or mowing to control weeds will be necessary. The seedlings should naturally break off not come out of the ground during these short duration grazing periods.

Non-toxic endophyte-infected fescue (Novel or Friendly) retain persistent qualities. During dry periods the endophyte-infected fescues persist when endophyte free fescues varieties struggle. When looking for a novel or friendly endophyte infected fescue look for a variety with two names. It is likely a friendly or novel fescue, but always ask your seed dealer to confirm the status of a particular variety.

Wesley Tucker, University of Missouri Extension, Agricultural

Business Specialist, discussed a multi-state study on farm expenses. Feed costs are 52.2% of the expenses in a typical cow/calf operation. The study took into consideration land, feed, fuel, and fertilizer. Feed was clearly the single greatest expense. Wesley's thoughts are to graze the number of cattle that the pasture will support during the winter. Do not count on the spring flush of growth to carry the herd through the summer. Fall calving allows weaned calves to graze surplus forage during the spring after



weaning. On unimproved fescue pastures stockers should gain 1 pound per day. Give the calves the best grass first followed by the dry cows. As the grass grows faster move the calves through the grazing system to fresh pasture to optimize calf gains. The dry cows can follow behind and graze the remainder.

Fall strip grazing has a relatively quick return on investment. Wesley uses portable fencing and portable water tanks to strip graze fields during the fall. He rents several farms where permanent fences and other permanent improvements are not economically feasible. Strip grazing allows Wesley to ration the stockpiled pasture allowing him to reduce the amount of hay he must feed.

Wesley is employing strategies to reduce hay feeding, but tarps and wrappers on hay are typically cost-effective. Barns for protecting hay have a quicker return on investment than in past years due to the cost of hay. The greater the quality and value of the hay also effects the rapidness of return on investment.

If you wish to discuss your pasture farm and the potential of developing a management intensive grazing system, please contact Shawn Keller or Charlie Perkins at 636-922-2833 x3. Financial assistance may be available through the State Cost-Share program or Environmental Quality Incentive Program. If you wish to attend a Forage Conference or grazing school contact the office for upcoming events. The Missouri Forage and Grassland Council has a website with grazing schools around the state that meet the eligibility requirements of the DSP-3 state cost-share program. <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mfgc/schools.htm>

There will be a grazing school September 3, 4 in Franklin County, (Location TBA).